

spending in the region.

In addition to aid, developed countries have tried to use other pressures (diplomatic, sale of military equipment etc.) in the past to influence defence and related policies. The US, for example, has put pressure on both India and Pakistan to curb their nuclear and missile programmes. One of the most publicized instances of US pressure was when it imposed sanctions on technology transfer to the Indian and the Russian space agencies in retaliation against the supply of cryogenic engines by the Russians to India. In the case of Pakistan, pressure has been applied on Pakistan to abandon its nuclear weapon development programme through the Pressler Amendment. However, it is doubtful whether this pressure has achieved much. Both India and Pakistan continue to develop their nuclear and missile capabilities. The pressure has failed not only because the development of nuclear and missile capabilities is considered crucial by both countries for national defence; it has become almost synonymous with national honour in both the countries.

What Can NGOs and Aid Agencies Do?

1. Do not link aid to military expenditure.

If aid is used explicitly to influence the defence spending in the region, it is unlikely to bear results. In fact, there is a danger that, given the recent rise of religion based parties in the region (who take a comparative aggressive position on defence), this could be counter productive. A more effective approach will be to link aid with development related expenditure in these countries (and not with military expenditure). Linking aid to economic policies is likely to be accepted as legitimate. Linking aid to what are considered national security concerns will not be acceptable.

2. Lobby your governments not to take sides or supply arms.

In the past the super power rivalry played an important role in fueling the arms race in south Asia. With the end of the cold war, the external environment for peace in the region has